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ENUGU, Biafra-Nigeria - The Biafran secessionist Nigerian federation, torn away a month ago by the proclamation of a separate state called Biafra, is putting up a facade of nationhood but no country in the world has recognized it.

For Biafrans in the river town of Port Harcourt the moment of truth comes when they look toward the harbor and see no ships at the once bustling docks. This is a reminder that Biafra is virtually cut off from the world by the sanctions of Nigeria's central government.

Biafrans are far from cracking under these sanctions despite a shortage of such items as salt. In Port Harcourt, girls in stretch pants drill with civil defense units. In Enugu, office workers shoulder wooden mock rifles when they march after working hours.

There are signs of anxiety, however, in such expressions as "I wish something would happen." Government officials speak more of striking first with the army before the Nigerians get a chance to enforce the vow of military ruler Maj. Gen. Yakubu Gowon to crush the Biafra rebellion.

Lt. Col. Ojukwu Ojukwu, 24, bearded Biafra head of state, says recognition from other countries will come "in time."

"We have refrained from taking steps which would have expanded our frontiers, knowing full well we could not be stopped," he observes. "We are very anxious not to be the aggressor."

A demonstration that Biafra could hold off federal Nigerian troops might hasten international recognition. Recognition in turn would weaken the blockade, which is imposed as much by the Nigerian government's position as the lone recognized authority in the area as it is by the Nigerian navy of one frigate and two patrol boats.

Ojukwu backed away from earlier demands that oil companies in this territory pay money to Biafra by July 1. "From the date it becomes due that money belongs to Biafra," he says. "What accommodation we grant the debtors depends on how discussions with them work out."

Ojukwu exudes confidence. He reports ships are coming to Port Harcourt "not regularly," but shipping sources there said the last vessel, a Norwegian tanker, appeared June 6, carrying away 9,000 tons of palm oil.

So much palm oil is unshipped that the government has stored it in petroleum tanks. Next to crude oil, palm oil is the major source of foreign exchange in former Eastern Nigeria. As a result of parts and raw materials shortages, a Port Harcourt auto assembly plant has closed. Lack of gypsum is threatening cement plants.

Nearly 1,000 daily-paid dock workers in Port Harcourt are out of work.

One member of the government insisted Biafran representatives in Europe were shadowed by operatives of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Said Ojukwu rhetorically: "I am shadowed by the CIA. Other Africans are shadowed by the CIA.

Members of the American government are shadowed by the CIA. We are all shadowed by the CIA."

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